

IN THE CLAIMS:

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A shingle comprising

a shingle neck;

a shingle body;

a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a first male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the first shoulder;

a second shingle shoulder (4) disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a second male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote from the shingle neck forming a female mold undercut zone (6) and

wherein the first male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the second side for engaging the

first male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another second side of a second shingle constructed like the first shingle and wherein the second male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the first side for engaging the second male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another first side of a third shingle constructed like the first shingle;

wherein

the raised engagement and guide element (5) is disposed in the lower region of the shingle body (2), wherein the raised engagement and guide element (5) defines a female mold undercut zone (6) open on a downward side and extending horizontally along the shingle body and having a deepest point adjacent to the shingle body.

6. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5, wherein the shingle neck and the shingle body are disposed in one plane, and wherein the raised engagement and guide element projects from the shingle body by a height level corresponding to a thickness of the shingle body.

7. (currently amended) The shingle according to claim 17 ~~[[5]]~~,

wherein

the raised engagement and guide element (5) is ~~disposed~~ disposed in the lower region

of the shingle body (2), wherein the raised engagement and guide element (5) defines a female mold undercut zone (6) open on a downward side and extending horizontally along the shingle body and having a deepest point adjacent to the shingle body.

8. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5, wherein a horizontal extension of the first shingle shoulder (4) corresponds to about one half of a horizontal extension of the raised engagement and guide element (5); and wherein a horizontal extension of the second shingle shoulder (4) corresponds to about one half of a horizontal extension of the raised engagement and guide element (5).

9. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5, wherein the shingle is a roof shingle.

10. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5, wherein the shingle is a house shingle.

11. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A shingle according to claim 5, comprising

a shingle neck;

a shingle body;

a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a first male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the first shoulder;

a second shingle shoulder (4) disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a second male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote from the shingle neck forming a female mold undercut zone (6) and

wherein the first male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the second side for engaging the first male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another second side of a second shingle constructed like the first shingle and wherein the second male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the first side for engaging the second male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another first side of a third shingle constructed like the first shingle;

wherein the first male undercut zone has an edge disposed in a plane of an outside of the shingle;

wherein the second male undercut zone has an edge disposed in a plane of an outside of the shingle; and

wherein the raised engagement and guide element has a deepest bottom groove adjacent to a plane on the inner surface of the shingle body.

12. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5 wherein the raised engagement and guide element has a shape of a horizontally extending overhang.

13. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5, wherein the raised engagement and guide element is projecting from an inner side face of the shingle body.

14. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 5,
wherein an edge of the shingle body on the first side is straight and nearly vertical; and

wherein an edge of the shingle body on the second side is straight and disposed substantially parallel to the edge of the shingle body on the first side; and

wherein the raised engagement and guide element is disposed in a middle between the edge of the shingle body on the first side and the edge of the shingle body on the second side.

15. (currently amended) The shingle [[body]] according to claim 14, wherein a first edge on the first side of the neck of the shingle is disposed straight and parallel to the edge of the shingle body on the first side; wherein a second edge on the second side of the neck of the shingle is disposed straight and parallel to the edge of the shingle body on the second side; wherein the edge of the shingle body on the first side is longer than the first edge on the first side of the neck of the shingle; and wherein the edge of the shingle body on the second side is longer than the second edge on the second side of the neck of the shingle.

16. (currently amended) The shingle [[body]] according to claim 5, wherein the neck of the shingle and the body of the shingle are located in one geometric plane.

17. (currently amended) ~~[[The]] A shingle body according to claim 5~~

comprising

a shingle neck;

a shingle body;

a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a first male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the first shoulder;

a second shingle shoulder (4) disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a second male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote

from the shingle neck forming a female mold undercut zone (6) and

wherein the first male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the

raised engagement and guide element on the second side for engaging the

first male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide

element on another second side of a second shingle constructed like the first

shingle and wherein the second male undercut zone matches the shape of the

part of the raised engagement and guide element on the first side for

engaging the second male undercut zone with a part of another raised

engagement and guide element on another first side of a third shingle

constructed like the first shingle;

wherein a depth of the projection of the raised engagement and guide element is substantially equal to a thickness of the shingle body.

18. (currently amended) The shingle ~~[[body]]~~ according to claim 5 wherein the engagement and guide element is formed as a projection from the body of the shingle, wherein an end face of the engagement and guide element forms a plane disposed parallel to a plane of the body of the shingle; and wherein the projection extends at an angle from the body of the shingle; wherein an angle of the first male mold undercut zone (7) relative to the plane of the body of the shingle matches the angle of the projection; and wherein an angle of the second male mold undercut zone (7) relative to the plane of the body of the shingle matches the angle of the projection.

19. (previously presented) A shingle consisting of:
a shingle neck;
a shingle body;
a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;
a first male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the first shoulder;
a second shingle shoulder (4) disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;
a second male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote from the shingle neck forming a female mold undercut zone (6) and wherein the first male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the second side for engaging the first male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another second side of a second shingle constructed like the first shingle and wherein the second male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the first side for engaging the second male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another first side of a third shingle constructed like the first shingle.

20. (currently amended) [[The]] A shingle according to claim 5,
comprising

a shingle neck;

a shingle body;

a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a first male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the first shoulder;

a second shingle shoulder (4) disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a second male undercut zone projecting on a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote from the shingle neck forming a female mold undercut zone (6) and

wherein the first male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the second side for engaging the first male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another second side of a second shingle constructed like the first shingle and wherein the second male undercut zone matches the shape of the part of the raised engagement and guide element on the first side for engaging the second male undercut zone with a part of another raised engagement and guide element on another first side of a third shingle constructed like the first shingle;

wherein the inner side of the shingle defines a first plane;

wherein an outer side of the shingle defines a second plane disposed parallel to the first plane;

wherein the shingle neck defines an axial direction;

wherein a plurality of sectional planes is disposed perpendicular to the first plane and contain a straight line disposed parallel to the axial direction of the neck;

wherein the first male undercut zone is formed by a first ridge;

wherein the first ridge forms a first acute angle with the second plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;

wherein the first ridge forms a first obtuse angle with the first plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;

wherein the second male undercut zone is formed by a second ridge;
wherein the second ridge forms a second acute angle with the second plane
when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;
wherein the second ridge forms a second obtuse angle with the first plane
when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes.

21. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 20,
wherein an inner side of the raised engagement and guide element defines a
third plane disposed parallel to the first plane;
wherein the female mold undercut zone is formed by a ledge;
wherein the ledge forms a third acute angle with the third plane when
intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;
wherein the ledge forms a third obtuse angle with the first plane when
intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes.

22. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 21,
wherein the first acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the second acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the third acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the first obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees;
wherein the second obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees;

wherein the third obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees.

23. (previously presented) A shingle comprising

a shingle neck having an axial direction;

a shingle body;

a first shingle shoulder disposed on a first side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a first ridge forming a top side of the first shoulder;

a second shingle shoulder disposed on a second side between the shingle neck and the shingle body;

a second ridge forming a top side of the second shoulder;

a raised engagement and guide element disposed on an inner side of the shingle body and in a lower region of the shingle body and disposed remote from the shingle neck forming a ledge (6);

wherein the inner side of the shingle defines a first plane;

wherein an outer side of the shingle defines a second plane disposed parallel to the first plane;

wherein the shingle neck defines an axial direction;

wherein a plurality of sectional planes is disposed perpendicular to the first plane and contain a straight line disposed parallel to the axial direction of the neck;

wherein an inner side of the raised engagement and guide element defines a third plane disposed parallel to the first plane;

wherein the ledge forms a third acute angle with the third plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;

wherein the ledge forms a third obtuse angle with the first plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes.

24. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 23,
wherein the first ridge forms a first acute angle with the second plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;
wherein the first ridge forms a first obtuse angle with the first plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;
wherein the second ridge forms a second acute angle with the second plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes;
wherein the second ridge forms a second obtuse angle with the first plane when intersected by one of the plurality of sectional planes.

25. (previously presented) The shingle according to claim 24,
wherein the first acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the second acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the third acute angle is from about 40 to 50 degrees;
wherein the first obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees;
wherein the second obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees;

wherein the third obtuse angle is from about 130 to 140 degrees.

26. (new) The shingle according to claim 17,
wherein the first male undercut zone has an edge disposed in a plane of an
outside of the shingle;
wherein the second male undercut zone has an edge disposed in a plane of
an outside of the shingle; and
wherein the raised engagement and guide element has a deepest bottom
groove adjacent to a plane on the inner surface of the shingle body.

27. (new) The shingle body according to claim 20 wherein a depth of
the projection of the raised engagement and guide element is
substantially equal to a thickness of the shingle body.

28. (new) The shingle according to claim 11,
wherein
the raised engagement and guide element (5) is disposed in the lower region
of the shingle body (2), wherein the raised engagement and guide element
(5) defines a female mold undercut zone (6) open on a downward side and
extending horizontally along the shingle body and having a deepest point
adjacent to the shingle body.